

Report to	Marlborough Area Board
Date of meeting	22 November 2016
Title of report	Area Board funding for public toilets

Purpose of the Report:

To consider proposals for funding towards new public toilet facilities at George Lane car park, Marlborough.

1. Background

- 1.1 Changes to Wiltshire Council's provision of public toilets
 - 1.1.1 Because of financial pressures, from 1st April 2016 Wiltshire Council closed all of the public toilets it ran throughout Wiltshire. This is not a statutory service, hence the decision to close them.
 - 1.1.2 In order for there to still be provision within the county, Wiltshire Council has given area boards one-off funding for 2016/17 of £1,000 to be made available to town & parish councils and local businesses such as shops and cafes. In the case of local business, this is to encourage them to allow non-customers access to their facilities. In the case of town & parish councils it is to help encourage either the refurbishment of toilets they currently operate or to take on the former Wiltshire Council facilities through a Community Asset Transfer.
- 1.2 Community Asset Transfers
 - 1.2.1 In January 2013 Marlborough Area Board agreed to the Community Asset Transfer of the George Lane car park toilets to Marlborough Town Council. This was part of a project for Marlborough Town Council to sell the toilets at Chantry Lane, which they currently own and operate, and to then use the profits to refurbish and reopen the George Lane block.
 - 1.2.2 The sale of the Chantry Lane block has been slowed by a number of difficulties but these are now progressing. In order to expedite the improvements to George Lane, Marlborough Town Council has decided to take out a Public Works Loan and get work under way. The town council's plan is for the refurbished toilets to reopen in spring 2017.

2 Main Considerations

- 2.1 At present, the only public toilets in Marlborough are at Chantry Lane, off the High Street. Marlborough Town Council sees it as a priority to re-open the George Lane facilities, hence taking the loan rather than waiting for the sale of Chantry Lane to go through. This route would have also meant that for a while, there would be no facilities still open in town.
- 2.2 Marlborough Area Board has funding available to help town councils refurbish existing public toilets. If this funding is not spent by the end of 2016/17, it is likely this money cannot be rolled forward into the new financial year and will be reclaimed by Wiltshire Council.
- 2.3 The Community Engagement Manager has been in discussion with Marlborough's Town Clerk about offering the town council the £1,000 as a contribution towards the refurbishment. Whilst this represents only a small part of the overall costs, it will be sign that Marlborough Area Board supports this solution.

3 Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific environmental implications related to this report.

3.2 There are no specific community implications related to this report although the benefits of having public toilet facilities are clear.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Financial provision has been made to cover this expenditure.

4.2 Neither Marlborough Area Board nor Wiltshire Council will have any financial responsibility for operating or maintaining the refurbished toilets at George Lane car park.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

6 Human Resources Implication

6.1 There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

7 Equality and Inclusion Implications

7.1 Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

8 Safeguarding Implications

8.1 The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

9 Recommendation

9.1 That Marlborough Area Board agrees to contribute the £1,000 funding available towards Marlborough Town Council's project to refurbish and reopen the George Lane car park public toilets.

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report

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